

**Speech of the Secretary General of PS IGC TRACECA, Mr. Rustan Jenalinov,
at the International Expert Conference on “The Safety of Navigation and Environmental Security in a
Transboundary Context in the Black Sea Basin”
(24 June 2008, Odessa)**

**“IGC TRACECA: Prospects for Maritime Safety Aspects Development
and Environmental Protection”**

SLIDE 1

Dear Mister Chairman!
Dear Participants to the International Conference!
Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA allow me to welcome all participants and to express my gratitude to the OSCE Secretariat for the invitation to take part in such a significant event which will undoubtedly contribute to the solution of the key-note issues of transport security and environmental protection in the Black Sea region.

I would like to emphasize the relevant character of this Conference as its agenda covers discussion of the challenges for the Black Sea section of the TRACECA corridor.

As is known, the corridor “Europe-the Caucasus-Asia “TRACECA” is **SLIDE 2** a multi-modal system of land and sea routes, ensuring international traffic between Europe and Asia across the Black Sea, the countries of the South Caucasus, the Caspian Sea and the Central Asian countries. **SLIDE 3** The TRACECA Programme is aimed at enhancement of trade and economic relations, transport communication between the countries and regions.

Under globalization and dynamically developing international trade as well as increase of flows of transcontinental traffic special significance is attached to security enhancement **SLIDE 4** and environmental protection.

The Strategy of IGC TRACECA up to 2015 and the Action Plan for 2008-2009 for its implementation determine that the following aspects **SLIDE 5** of the TRACECA corridor development which consist of security enhancement, including safety of sea transport and environmental protection will become key-note priorities.

Annual growth of hydrocarbons production volumes and goods turnover between Europe and Asia have a considerable effect on the dynamics of transporting and handling of cargo at the sea ports which in its turn result in pollution scale increase, and the shipped cargo produces negative environmental impact which demands efficient security enhancement measures.

Therefore the priority objective consists in coordinated activities of international organizations, especially in the field of legal regulation, directed towards solution of the transport and environmental security tasks.

SLIDE 6

We are all aware, that one of the main international legal regulations in the field of navigation safety is the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea of 1974 (SOLAS-74), adopted within the framework of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The International Safety Management Code (ISM Code) and pollution prevention adopted in 1995 is also very important.

For the first time the control of ships operation and shipping companies activities on security promotion were regulated by these international legal documents which cover as well establishing their own security management systems including their coastal divisions with further corresponding international certification.

Adoption of the International Code for Ships and Port Facility Security (ISPS Code), the provisions of which took effect on 1 July, 2004, required the TRACECA participating countries to introduce additional organizational and technical facilities, directed towards strengthening protection of ports and ships from external threats. Specifically, new ships are being built and the existing ones – renewed in accordance with the IMO requirements, services in charge of environmental security and protection are being established, modern navigation equipment is gradually being put into operation. One of the TRACECA strategic objectives in the field of modern technologies is regional application of the satellite radio navigation system Galileo.

According to the IMO data there are currently effective about 40 various conventions and protocols, more than 800 codes and recommendations, regulating nearly all principal issues of ensuring safety of maritime navigation and marine environment protection, which allow to standardize the activity of international navigation.

The TRACECA states in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea basins joined the principal international conventions in the field of prevention of collisions at sea and pollution from ships.

SLIDE 7

IGC TRACECA actively works on ensuring the compliance of the requirements adopted by the Convention within the framework of IMO, consistently creates the conditions for the TRACECA participating countries to accede to new Conventions and Agreements, particularly, to the International Convention for Safe Containers and Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue. The national legislations in the countries are gradually amended with the key components of the European legal norms, regulating the issues of maritime safety and environmental protection.

The significance of maritime sector development as one of the priority component of the TRACECA inter-modal corridor is proved by consistent project implementation policy aimed at promotion of maritime sector.

The Permanent Secretariat of IGC TRACECA in close coordination with the EC and the participating countries within the framework of the realized projects take the necessary measures on introduction of modern transport technologies, organization and improvement of traffic in the region.

For 10 years within the framework of the TRACECA Programme there were implemented dozens of technical assistance and investment project.

Since 1995 until now out of many completed and on-going projects more than 20 of them pertain directly to sea shipping operations and transit transport in the TRACECA region.

As an example I would like to give only some of them concerning the Black Sea region: **SLIDE 8** *"Feasibility Studies for New Terminal Capacities in the Georgian Ports of Poti and Batumi", "Capacity Building for Senior Transport Officials", "Regulation on Transport of Dangerous Goods (LPG)", "Maritime Training"*.

All these measures are directed towards the achievement of one objective – safety of maritime transport under the conditions of increased requirements on the part of international structures.

As one of the main issues of the Strategy of IGC TRACECA for Development of the International Transport Corridor TRACECA up to 2015 is focused on environmental security and protection in the TRACECA region, the projects realization in this field will go on.

Among these projects we can name the following: the on-going project "Improvement of Maritime Links between TRACECA and TEN Corridors", **SLIDE 9** and the projects planned for realization this year *"Motorways of the Sea (MoS) for the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea", "Development of Common Security Management System and Cooperation in the Area of Maritime Safety and Ship Pollution Prevention for the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea", "Strengthening of Transport Training Capacities in NIS countries", as well as "Ukraine Port Strategy Development and Feasibility Studies"*.

In view of the fact that the issues of safety and security and environmental protection have a regional impact as the ships cross the state borders, it is very important to take into consideration the aspects of regional cooperation and coordination.

Therefore, the TRACECA project "Development of Common Security Management System and Cooperation in the Area of Maritime Safety and Ship Pollution Prevention in the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea" is aimed at solution of three main issues and implementation of the relevant conventions, specifically: **SLIDE 10**

- Safety and security within the framework of ISPS Code – International Code for Ships and Port Facility Security;
- Safety within the framework of the Paris MoU – Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control;
- Environmental protection of the sea from the ships (port waste management) in the framework of MARPOL Convention 73/78 – International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.

The project is planning to take the following actions:

- Review of the level of transposition of the said-above international conventions and regulations into national legislation of the Parties;
- Assisting where needed with implementation of the plan for transposition of international conventions and regulations into national legislation;
- Identifying the relevant issues for training and capacity building for eight countries;
- Preparing and conducting relevant regional training courses;
- For those countries which have not yet signed the Black Sea or the Paris MoUs assisting them in the accession to signature;

- Identifying model ports in the involved countries with planned and partly implemented best practice regarding MARPOL (International Convention on Prevention of Pollution from Ships), ISPS Code (International Code for Ships and Port Facility Security);
- Establishing Regional Working Group and creating the regional action plan.

Within the framework of the project there are plans to create the web-site, dedicated to maritime transport security, traffic safety, environmental protection and prevention of pollution from ships.

The project provides for introduction of HELCOM system (Helsinki Commission, uniting the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea), being a good example of an institution which coordinates activities on the issues like e.g. safety, security and environmental protection of the sea. It is therefore proposed to adapt the approach from HELCOM to establish a regional working group among the countries of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. This will help to elaborate a common approach towards solution of the issues of security promotion and environmental protection on an interregional level.

SLIDE 11

We attach much significance to joint constructive dialogue and cooperation with regional and sub-regional international organizations.

Recently on 24 April, 2008 in Odessa **SLIDE 12** there was held the Annual meeting of the Working group of experts on the safety of navigation of the coastal states surrounding the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea within the framework of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. The Working group managed to achieve understanding on cooperation strengthening, positive experience exchanging, including joint activities with other regional organizations.

Undoubtedly, exchange of experience with the leading countries and international organizations will allow to jointly solve the issues of maritime and multi-modal transport security development taking into account minimal impact on the environment in the regions which will in its turn offer the opportunity to focus on the priority tasks, to attract the investments for their implementation and introduction of science intensive technologies.

Dear Participants to the International Conference!

It is very important if we manage to come to the results which would justify our common expectations and allow to determine the effective mechanisms for promotion of security and environmental protection, contribute to the modern technology exchange and best practices introduction in the region of the Black Sea.

I am assured, that today we could find the solutions for the issues common to us, which will in its turn help us to approach the efficient fulfillment of the objectives set.

SLIDE 13

In conclusion I would like to thank the Ministry of Transport and Communication of Ukraine, the OSCE Secretariat for excellent organization of the meeting and to wish everybody success and positive results.

Thank you for attention.